exceeding 100 metric tones (MT). Out of these, 21 plants are sources from temperate forests and 72 from the tropical forests.

(c) and (d) Although there is no such committee to monitor the quantity of herbs extracted by pharmaceutical companies, Government has issued a draft notification under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 requiring the pharmaceutical industries to maintain and furnish information on the raw material used by them and source thereof. This will help in better regulation of the medicinal plants trade by imparting transparency and traceability.

Procurement of medicines

853. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some government agencies are procuring medicines at prices higher than the retailer;

(b) if so, the names of such Government Departments with the name of the authority responsible for the purchases; and

(c) what action Government is taking against those who are involved?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS):

(a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ratio of PHCs

854. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the ratio of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in one lakh population in rural and urban areas, State-wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): A Primary Health Centre (PHC) in a rural area is opened as per the population norm of 1 per 30,000 population in general areas and 1 per 20000 population in tribal/desert areas. As on March, 2007, there are a total of 22370 PHCs functioning across the country in rural areas. State-wise details showing the number of functioning PHCs in each State/UT is given at Statement-I (*See* below).

Another detail showing the State-wise urban population (Census 2001) and number of Urban Family Welfare Centres and Urban Health Posts is given at Statement-II (*See* below).

As per norms, there are 4 to 6 PHCs per one lakh population in the country in rural areas.